

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:IMSILINS:LG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: ARMITAGE/NICOLAE MEETING ON EXCHANGE AGREEMENT,
OCTOBER 23

REFS: STATE 260710; STATE 261641

1. AT BRIEFING PROMISED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN (REF 1, PARA 5), DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE PRESENTED ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR NICOLAE WITH NON-PAPER LISTING OUR MAJOR COMPLAINTS WITH ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON EXCHANGE PROGRAM, ALL WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY BUCHAREST; E.G., FAILURE TO OBSERVE DEADLINES FOR NOMINATIONS, FAILURE TO FULFILL QUOTAS, LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATIONS AND UNANNOUNCED ARRIVALS, ETC. ARMITAGE PARTICULARLY STRESSED SLOW REACTION TIME OF GOR DECISION-MAKING APPARATUS ON NOMINATIONS, EXIT VISAS, AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF STAY, WHICH SOMETIMES CAUSED WORTHY PROJECTS TO FALL THROUGH. HE ASKED NICOLAE TO SEE WHETHER PROCEDURES MIGHT BE EXPEDITED. ARMITAGE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED NEED FOR ADEQUATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, ESPECIALLY ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PART OF SENIOR RESEARCHERS, AND INADEQUATE HOUSING FOR

AMERICAN LECTURERS.

2. NICOLAE TOOK THIS IN AND ASKED FOR FURTHER, MORE

DETAILED BRIEFING, WITH EXAMPLES, TO BE GIVEN TO ROMEMB
OFFICER PLOSCARU BEFORE NICOLAE'S DEPARTURE TO ATTEND
CC PLENUM, WHICH DEPARTMENT UNDERTOOK TO DO.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ROMANIAN QUERY ON TIMING OF PROGRAM
TALKS, ARMITAGE INDICATED WE WOULD WANT TO ALLOW TIME
FOR NICOLAE'S EFFORTS TO MAKE THEMSELVES FELT BEFORE
BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON TIMING IN LIGHT OF OTHER FACTORS
OUTLINED IN REF 2.

4. NICOLAE ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ARMITAGE FOR
ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR WAIVER EXTENSION. ARMITAGE
SAID WE SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH ON HOW THINGS ARE GOING
WITH REGARD TO BOTH TRADE AND EMIGRATION AND KEEP CONGRESS
INFORMED SO AS TO PERHAPS EASE THE PROCESS NEXT YEAR.

5. IN CLOSING, NICOLAE SAID THE U.S. AND ROMANIA SHOULD
EXPLORE NEW FIELDS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE, PERHAPS
IN THE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL AREAS. ARMITAGE SAID HE
WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THESE POSSIBILITIES AFTER
NICOLAE'S RETURN, SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT NOVEMBER 15. ROBINSON

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